NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Experimental Product
DATE: February 10, 2004

EXPERIMENTAL INTERACTIVE WEATHER PLANNER

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. **Product/Service Description:**
   The interactive weather planner web page allows a customer to enter threshold values for user-specified weather parameters, and obtain a preliminary forecast for their defined area of interest. The output is derived directly from the NWS digital forecast data base. The resulting graph represents average conditions in a 5 km grid box nearest the user-selected latitude/longitude point.

2. **Purpose/Intended Use:**
   This experimental web page is designed to give customers a quick snapshot of weather parameters associated with a specific, user-defined area of interest. This snapshot, obtained through interactive access to a web-based application server, will facilitate decision making by allowing users to specify the conditions and locations of interest to them. It also serves to introduce the public to the digital data base concept through a generic utility, and may stimulate innovative ideas from IT professionals for developing NDFD-based applications of their own.

3. **Audience:**
   The audience is any customer in the WFO forecast area who would like to interactively assess forecast conditions for a user-defined set of parameters and associated thresholds at a specific location of interest to them.

4. **Presentation Format:**
   All interaction occurs via a web page interface. Weather parameter thresholds are entered via text boxes. Forecast data is displayed in a color coded bar graph format. Green represents weather conditions falling within the defined thresholds. Red and blue represent conditions above and below the threshold boundaries, respectively. A 48-hour zoom window is also available, from which specific values of each parameter can be read in three-hour increments.

5. **Feedback Method:**
   We solicit feedback through the NWS Digital Feedback form or e-mail to the WFO webmaster, or by traditional mail to:

   National Weather Service
   Attn: Kim Runk
   7851 Industrial Road
   Las Vegas, NV 89139
   Phone 702-263-9744

E-mail comments or questions can be sent to:

Kim.Runk@noaa.gov -or- Andy.Bailey@noaa.gov

6. **Example URL:** http://ifps.wrh.noaa.gov/vef/Wx_Rx.html.

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**
This product was developed to provide customers an easy method to access first-guess weather forecast conditions for individual prescription parameters and thresholds defined by the user. The underlying digital forecast fields are created via IFPS/GFE. Standard grid editing tools are employed, which are available at every WFO. A 5 km resolution is inherent in these data sets.

2. **Availability:**
This interactive web page is available 24/7. The underlying digital forecast fields are updated a minimum of twice a day, and as conditions merit.

3. **Additional Information:**
Forecast output from this experimental application is not intended to substitute for any official, mission-critical forecast or warning issued by the National Weather Service. Rather it is intended to allow a user to obtain a first-guess forecast in order to determine whether further forecast support may be required. Customers are strongly encouraged to obtain the very latest weather forecasts prior to engaging in any weather sensitive activity. It also serves to expose users to the NWS digital forecast data base, and provide stimulus for development of their own applications and utilities.